



# SAFEnet

June 2010

## STUDENT'S KEEPING IT SAFE

The Keeping it Safe Team's, *Student's Keeping it Safe*, highlights a student or group who is making a positive impact on the community. The Keeping it Safe team will recognize each month an individual or group, between the grade levels of 6th and 12th.



June's *Student's Keeping it Safe* is a group of students who participated in a alcohol poisoning poster contest. The four students are Alison Silverstein and David Fillinich of Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, Karen Alexander of Richard Montgomery High School, and Melissa Kantor of Walt Whitman High School. The students were tasked with creating a poster that would appeal to their peers with the content to include signs and symptoms of alcohol poisoning and what to do to help a victim of alcohol poisoning. The award winning posters will be displayed at Montgomery County High Schools, County liquor stores, and other locations where youth congregate. The students also submitted reflection statements upon completion of their projects. Poster award winners were announced at the Keeping It Safe Awards Ceremony in April.

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### Questions?

Montgomery County community members can email related questions and receive updated prevention information. Please email: [safenet@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:safenet@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Tell a friend about SAFEnet and have them send an email to [safenet@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:safenet@montgomerycountymd.gov) with the subject line "SIGN ME UP"

To unsubscribe, please send email to [SAFEnet@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:SAFEnet@montgomerycountymd.gov) with the subject line "UNSUBSCRIBE ME"

## Newsletter Highlights



**Get Local!**  
**What's Happening in Montgomery County and Maryland**



**Tips, Stats, and Signs of Under-21 Alcohol Use**



**In the News**

Keeping it Safe "team" members: Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control, Montgomery County Police, Keeping it Safe Coalition, Drawing the Line on Substance Abuse Coalition, Montgomery County Safe and Drug Free Schools, Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, Montgomery County Recreation Department, and the Montgomery County Highway Safety Office  
To become a team member, email or call Meg Baker. 240-777-6652, [meg.baker@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:meg.baker@montgomerycountymd.gov)

## KEEPING IT SAFE

**SAFEline**— Call **301-670-SAFE** to request information on hosting under 21 alcohol free events or to report an upcoming under 21 alcohol party, event, or provider.

To report a party in progress, call the non-emergency police line at 301-289-8000.

For more information on state laws, consequences, or to order materials on Keeping it Safe, please contact the Department of Liquor Control Outreach Office, 240-777-1989, or e-mail [dlc@montgomerycountymd.com](mailto:dlc@montgomerycountymd.com).

## MD: Teens Warned about the Dangers of Pouring Vodka in Their Eyes

Drug prevention advocates are warning Maryland police and schools to caution students against pouring vodka in their eyes as graduation and Beach Week approach. "Vodka eyeballing" is a fairly new method of alcohol intake thrust into the national spotlight by a London tabloid. Doctors warn that the practice can lead to blinding. Three 2009 college graduates living in the District of Columbia told The Washington Examiner that eyeballing was a common party stunt. To read the full story, visit <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/Teens-warned-about-the-dangers-of-pouring-vodka-in-their-eyes-94781259.html>.

### Did you know?

**10.1 million (or 26% of) youth ages 12 to 20 report they consumed alcohol in the past 30 days.**

## New Drug Control Strategy by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) this week released its new drug control strategy.

The new drug control strategy released boosts community-based anti-drug programs, encourages health care providers to screen for drug problems before addiction sets in and expands treatment beyond specialty centers to mainstream health care facilities. Office of National Drug Control Policy director R. Gil Kerlikowske said the new policy changes the whole discussion about ending the war on drugs. The plan — the first drug plan unveiled by the Obama White House — calls for reducing the rate of youth drug use by 15 percent over the next five years and for similar reductions in chronic drug use, drug abuse deaths and drugged driving.

Kerlikowske criticized past drug strategies for measuring success by counting the number of children and teens who have not tried marijuana. At the same time, the number of deaths from illegal and prescription drug overdoses was rising.

The new drug plan encourages health care professionals to ask patients questions about drug use even during routine treatment so that early intervention is possible. It also helps more states set up electronic databases to identify doctors who are overprescribing addictive pain killers. The strategy outlines five-year goals to reduce drug use and its consequences:

- Reduce the rate of youth drug use by 15 percent
- Decrease drug use among young adults by 10 percent
- Reduce the number of chronic drug users by 15 percent
- Reduce the incidence of drug-induced deaths by 15 percent
- Reduce the prevalence of drugged driving by 10 percent

To access the 2010 National Drug Control Strategy online visit: <http://www.whitehouse-drugpolicy.gov/strategy/index.html>.

## WRAP's Ten Tips for Parents to Deter Underage Drinking and Drunk Driving this Summer

**1. Talk with Your Teen...** Studies time and time again have confirmed that parents can have a significant — if not most significant — impact as to whether their teens will engage in risky behaviors including the use of alcohol. Talk openly to your teen about alcohol.

**2. Provide Structure...** The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse found that teen children of "absentee parents" were four-times more likely to abuse substances than children in highly-structured homes. Find a responsible adult, neighbor, relative or friend who can look in on your child or share the responsibility for creating activities for your children.

**3. Host a Party...** Host a teen party in your own home following clearly-stated guidelines of no drugs or alcohol.

**4. Foster Self Confidence...** Instill self-confidence in your teen by talking with them about peer pressure.

**5. Lay Down the Law...** Maryland has zero tolerance laws making it a crime to possess, transport or purchase alcohol if you're under 21.

**6. Ensure Safety...** Even if you have every confidence in the world that your teen won't drink alcohol, if he or she is out with someone who has made the mistake of illegally drinking, don't compound it by either making a second mistake of having him or her drive under the influence or driving with an impaired driver.

**7. Beware of Your Civil Liability...** It's unlawful for parents to allow their children's friends to consume alcohol in their home.

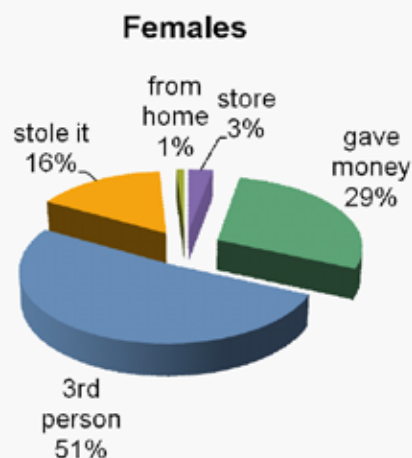
**8. Be a Role Model...** Use alcohol moderately, serve as a responsible host and never drink and drive.

**9. Be a Safe Boater...** Whether it's the Bay or the Potomac, this summer, don't overlook area waterways as another venue of underage drinking & drunk driving.

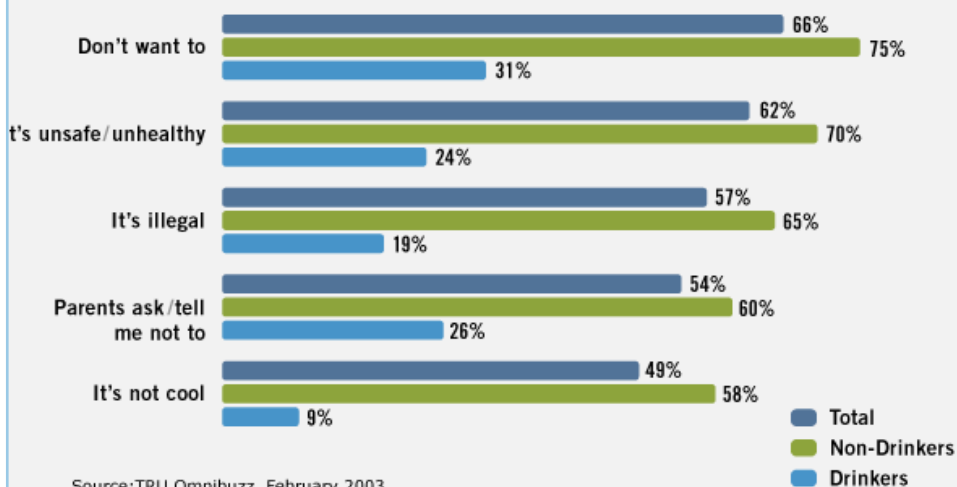
**10. Don't Wait...** If you suspect that your child is drinking, intervene.

*For more details visit [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org)*

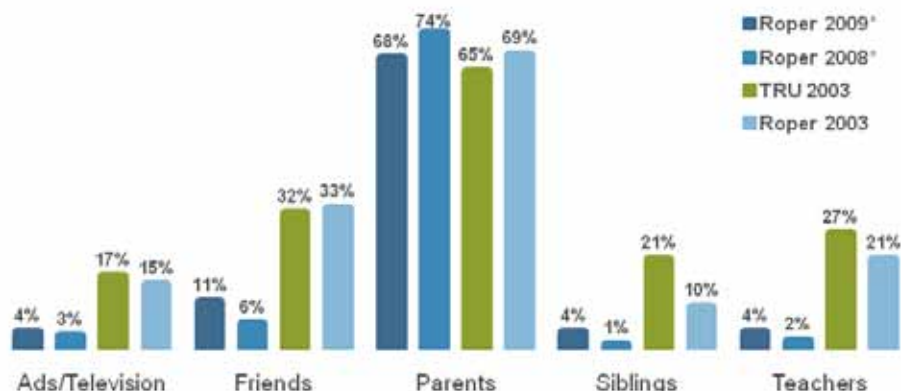
## Where Kids Get Alcohol



## Why Kids Choose Not to Drink



## Parents Have the Most Influence on Whether or Not Their Child Will Drink Alcohol



Source: TRU Omnibuzz (10-18 year olds); Roper Youth Report (8-17 year olds)  
 \*In 2008 and 2009 the respondents could only select one response for this question. Previous years surveys allowed multiple responses to this question.

## Student's Keeping It Safe

### Melissa Kantor, Award Winner Alcohol Poisoning Poster Contest

#### Why do you think your group is a positive impact on today's youth?

I believe that students promoting alcohol poisoning prevention have made a positive impact on today's youth because, we ARE today's youth. I feel like students will listen to people their own age who are dealing with the pressure of drinking with their friends at illegal ages. I also believe that the poster that I created took a different approach of preventing alcohol poisoning by targeting friends. I know that most high schoolers have tried or will try alcohol during their high school careers, it is a illegal act that just happens. Yes people are trying to prevent teens from drinking, but we need to realize that teens are drinking under age and we need to focus the media on how to help teens if they become sick when drinking alcohol.

#### What do you believe will make a difference in underage drinking (parents, teachers, educating, programs)?

I believe that teens promoting no drinking/ safe drinking is one of the best ways to make a difference in under aged drinking. Teens will help their friends if they are ever stuck in difficult situations involving drinking, and if teens have knowledge about this then so many teens lives could be saved. Many teens die every year from alcohol poisoning because their friends are more worried about getting in trouble for underage drinking rather than trying to save their friends life. We need to publicize that it is more important to help out friends rather than get in trouble with the police.



## Youth Agents Help Crackdown on Underage Drinking Fox 5 DC Special Report, May 3, 2010

She's a high school senior by day, sort of a secret agent by night. We're not telling you her name because she's working undercover for the Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control. "I don't enjoy getting people in trouble. But I do enjoy doing this," says the blonde haired 18 year old. She's one of the few minors who can actually order a drink in front of law enforcement and not worry about it.

"They are very special people," says Agent Carlos Grajeda, Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement Specialist. He says it takes a certain kind of teenager, calm and confident, to pull this off. "If they feel uncomfortable because either they are too bashful or just don't feel comfortable going into bars, then it's not going to work."

But with a year under her belt, this underage agent is cool under pressure as we found out when we tagged along during recent compliance checks of area businesses.

To view the full report including an interview with Kathie Durbin, Chief, Licensure, Regulation and Education, Department of Liquor Control, visit

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/investigative/young-agents-help-crackdown-on-underage-drinking-050310>.

## Nearly All 11th and 12th Graders Believe Their Peers Are More Likely to Drink and Drive on Prom and Graduation Nights; Less Than One-Third Think Driving on These Nights is Dangerous

Students may be more likely to drink and drive on prom and graduation nights, according to a survey of 11th and 12th grade students across the country. Nearly all of the students surveyed (90%) said that their peers are more likely to drink and drive on prom night, and 79% report the same for graduation night. Despite this belief, students do not seem to think that driving on these nights is dangerous. Less than one-third (29%) reported that they believe that driving on prom night comes with a high degree of danger, and 25% said the same for graduation night. These findings suggest that there is a need to provide high school students with prevention messages that paint an accurate picture of the risks and consequences from drinking and driving during prom and graduation season.

Source: Cesar

